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Nor greetings where no kindness is, nor all
The dreary intercourse of daily life,
Shall e'er prevail against us, or disturb
Our cheerful faith, that all which we behold
Is full of blessings."—*Wordsworth.*

Many causes, unfortunately, have concurred and still concur to produce this apathy;—political excitements,—artificial habits,—as the same great poet says,

"The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:
Little we see in nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
The Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The Winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for every thing, we are out of tune;
It moves us not.—Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn."

Other causes, arising out of the want of cultivation of intellectual tastes, we shall apply ourselves earnestly to remove. With this object, it is our intention shortly to commence a series of walks in the vicinity of Dublin, directing the attention of our readers to the various objects to be met with, either of picturesque or historic interest, and occasionally illustrating our subject with illustrations.

We have been led into these observations, on looking at our prefixed wood engraving, which represents a subject of no common sublimity and grandeur, and which notwithstanding is, we are persuaded, but little known to our fellow-citizens. Such a scene, if it happened to be a hundred miles off, would be visited, at least by our aristocracy, to show their fashionable taste and disregard of expense; but within the short distance of an humble pedestrian walk, it offers no such gratification, and consequently remains unknown or disregarded. It is a view of the Light-house of Howth as seen from the shore, through a vista between the two remarkably pointed rocks on the south side of that beautiful promontory, popularly known to mariners by the name of "the Needles," or sometimes, "the Candlesticks." These singular features are the remains of a rocky headland worn into these fantastic forms by the action of the powerful element to whose fury they are exposed. Nothing can be more picturesquely imagined than the situation of the distant Pharos, placed upon a lofty and precipitous conical rock, almost insulated, and connected with the land by a bridge;—standing out boldly among the waves, and commanding both the southern and eastern iron bound cliffs of the great promontory with which it is connected, it seems predestined by nature for the purpose to which it is applied. This rock is popularly called the Bailly, a corruption of Bally, (*Ballium*, a habitation,) a name originally applied to the ancient circular fortress which crowned its summit previous to the erection of the present buildings. This fortress was traditionally said to have been the work of the Danes. The Light-house is a building of very modern date, erected by the Ballast Board, the older light-house having been found inefficient from the greater loftiness of its situation, which rendered it subject to be obscured by clouds and mists. It is now disused. The light in the present structure is produced by a set of reflectors ground to the parabolic form, in the foci of which large oil lamps are placed, according to the system now generally adopted by the Trinity-house.

The scenery of the South side of Howth, of which our illustration forms a part, presents a succession of beautiful and picturesque features, but which can only be properly enjoyed by the pedestrian, as the road, for the greater part, winds too far away to allow of their being seen. And it is only from these bold crags that the beauty of our bay can be fairly appreciated, as they command the whole of its spacious marine amphitheatre, and the entire range of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains.

POBBLE O'KEEFE.

That Ireland has been much neglected is, alas! an indisputable fact. She has been too truly characterized as a country for which God has done much, but man little. The causes from which such melancholy results flow are neither few nor simple; different men, and honest men too, will trace their origin to very different sources. It would be a very difficult, nay, we should almost say a dangerous undertaking, to attempt an impartial investigation of the subject. Ours shall be a more pleasing and easy task—to point the attention of our readers to the benevolent operations of our Government, which have been for some time in progress, for the amelioration of the condition of the peasantry in a wild and comparatively unknown district, situated on the confines of the counties of Cork, Limerick, and Kerry.*

In the prosecution of these operations, men have been employed whose minds appear to have been guided by the best feelings, and who seem to have been well aware that the true interests of a well-ordered government are insured by the gratitude and affection of the governed.

The history of the district to which we have alluded has been summarily given by a gentleman, who has well described it as the theatre of a desolating warfare in the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First—as the refuge of outlaws in the reigns of William the Third and Anne, and the very focus of the more recent insurrectionary movements of the last ten or fifteen years.

An extensive tract of country, comprehending upwards of 900 square miles, in many places very populous, yet containing but two small villages, and possessing but two resident landed proprietors, namely, the Knight of Glynn, and Mr. Leader, of Dromagh, was distinguished, as might have been expected under such circumstances, by a more than ordinary degree of indolence, discontentedness, and turbulence, in its inhabitants; and their abodes being almost inaccessible for want of roads, crime frequently escaped unpunished. During the disturbances of the winter of 1821 and the spring of 1822, this district was the asylum for Whiteboys, smugglers, and midnight marauders. Stolen cattle were constantly driven into it, from the surrounding flat and fertile country, as to a safe and impenetrable retreat.

The only passes ever made through this part of the country previously to 1829, were effected at the instance and expense of the English Government immediately subsequent to the rebellion of the Earl of Desmond, of whose extensive territory the district of which we have been speaking formed a part. These passes or roads were laid out in straight lines without any reference to the nature of the country, and ran directly over hill and valley from one military point to another.

A vast change has been effected in the state of the district and its inhabitants since the month of September, 1822, when new lines of road were laid out, under the direction of a man of distinguished talent and information, Mr. Griffith, the civil engineer, sent down for that purpose, and for the direction of other public works, undertaken for the employment of the poor, in consequence of the scarcity which prevailed in the summer of that year.

The progress of this important change he has thus described:—"At the commencement of the works the people flocked to them from all quarters, seeking employment at any rate which might be offered. Their general appearance bespoke extreme poverty; their looks were haggard, and their clothing wretched; they rarely possessed any instruments of husbandry beyond a very small ill-made spade, and as a consequence it followed that nearly the whole face of the country was unimproved and in a state of nature. But since the completion of the roads in 1829, rapid strides have been made towards cultivation and improvement; upwards of sixty new lime kilns were built for the purpose of burning lime for agriculture within the two preceding years; carts, ploughs, and harrows, of superior construction, became common; new houses of a better class were built in great numbers in the vicinity of the new roads, and also in the adjacent villages of Newmarket, Castle-island, and Abbeyfeale; new enclosures of moun-

* The district in which Pobble O'Keefe is situated has been described in our fifteenth number, in an extract from Mr. Bryan's *Practical View of Ireland*.

tain farms have been made in every direction; and this country, which, at no distant period, was the scene of lawless outrage, and one of the strongholds of what might be termed the rebel army, quickly became perfectly tranquil, and exhibited a scene of industry and exertion at once pleasing and remarkable. To the credit of the people be it told, that a large portion of the money received by them for labour on the roads was husbanded with care, and subsequently laid out in building substantial houses, and in the purchase of cattle and implements of husbandry, and numerous examples might be adduced of poor labourers, possessing neither money, houses, nor lands, when first employed on the public roads, who, within a short period, were able to take farms, build houses, and stock their lands with cows and young cattle."

These representations of the important benefits resulting to the agriculture of the country, from merely opening new lines of easy and direct communication with it from the markets in its vicinity, and of their ameliorating influence over the habits and condition of the peasantry inhabiting it, are abundantly corroborated by the evidence of other persons, to be found in the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the State of the Poor in Ireland.

The improvements above described, which are attributable to the new roads, do not extend to the whole of the mountain district, situated between the river Shannon and the river Blackwater. There remains a considerable portion extending northward from the Blackwater to a line drawn between the towns of Castle-island and Newmarket, comprehending an area of about 200 square miles, or 128,000 acres, in which there is no road passable even for horsemen during the winter months.

In the very centre of this unopened district, at about ten miles distance from Castle-island, on the west, and from Newmarket and Kanturk, on the east, are situated the Crown-lands, called the lands of Pobble O'Keefe (the land of O'Keefe's people). They extend in length from north to south, parallel with the Blackwater (by which they are in great part bounded on the west), about seven miles; and in breadth from west to east, on which side they are bounded by the Awnaglyn, or Auntharaglyn, a mountain-stream flowing into the Blackwater, near Ahane, about two miles and a quarter; comprising altogether more than 9,000 statute acres of undulating hilly country, at an average elevation of about 500 feet above the level of the sea. The soil varies from a strong clay to a loamy gravel on the higher grounds, with tracts of alluvium, and some peat-bog in the vallies and along the bottoms.

The Crown lease being expired, a principal officer in the Department of Woods and Forests—Mr. James Weale, from whose Report, printed by the House of Commons, the greater part of the preceeding matter and of what follows has been taken—personally inspected the estate in the autumn of 1828, preliminary to the then intended renewal of the lease or sale of it. Upon that occasion, it appeared to him that if an accurate description of all the circumstances of the property in question were conveyed to the minds of the commissioners, they would feel that considerations of a higher nature than those which usually govern them in the management of the revenues placed under their charge ought to influence their decision in an ultimate disposition of this property. He felt the impolicy of consigning its population to the sordid dealings of a middle man or land-jobber; and, independently of all considerations merely economical or fiscal, he conceived it to be essential to the tranquillity and security of the kingdom, that this district, which presents an impregnable military position, commanding all the great roads communicating with the south-western section of Ireland, from Limerick, Waterford, and Cork, and in the heart of a populous and rapidly improving country, should be speedily rendered accessible, and the cultivation of its natural resources for the amelioration of its inhabitants, promoted as much as possible.

It appears that Mr. Weale found the crown was in the actual possession of only 5,000 acres; the remainder, contained in a longitudinal section of the estate, next to the Awnaglyn, being withheld by the adjacent proprietors, who claim to be entitled to the inheritance. The lands which have been surrendered to the crown are occupied by upwards of seventy native families, residing in mud

cabins, the only buildings on the property, and who subsist almost entirely on the deteriorated produce of a few acres of potatoe tillage; all their other earnings, from the produce of a few cows and the grazing of cattle in the summer months, together with any money they can obtain for harvest work in the adjacent districts, being barely sufficient to discharge the rents at which they held the property, amounting to about £580; but, however small that sum may appear to be with reference to the extent of the property, and natural capabilities of the soil, it is certain that it is exclusively derived from the mere labour of the population seated on it, in persevering endeavours to improve the natural herbage of such small parcels of the lands as are susceptible of cultivation without artificial drainage and the aid of manures and implements of husbandry.

Yet this is the peasantry that are daily, nay, hourly stigmatized as lazy, indolent, and worthless—all whose poverty and moral degradation are to be ascribed to their utter want of industry! And by whom are these calumnies propagated? Can it be possible that it is by their own countrymen? Alas! for poor human nature, it is even so. But let an unprejudiced and enlightened Englishman travel through this unfortunate country, and see things with his own eyes, and what is the result of his candid and unprejudiced observation? Read it in the able report of Mr. Weale to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. And where were his observations made? In a district known as the very centre of insurrection and rebellion. If these things be so, do they not convey an important lesson? But to return to our subject:

Mr. Weale, in his report, after relating some striking traits of character, indicating the strongest disposition for industrious habits in the tenantry of these lands, proceeds to show, that the local situation of the estate precludes all hope of effecting any permanent or profitable improvement of it as long as the extensive district, of which it forms the nucleus, is closed against an easy communication with the surrounding country, and that any expenditure of public money on it would afford but transitory relief to the wretched population inhabiting it.

Assuming that Government would provide for an early execution of the requisite new public roads, on which alone the practicability of effecting the proposed improvement of the Crown estate depends, Mr. Weale submits various suggestions as to the mode of proceeding which appears to him best calculated to effect the foregoing objects. In the first instance, he is, of opinion, that plans should be laid down for the draining and subdividing of the lands; and that, when these plans are settled, the tenantry should be forthwith employed in sinking the drains, and in forming the roads and the internal fences of the allotments or subdivisions. He then proposes the establishment of a village, at a spot which he designates, and which he shows would probably soon become a resting place for carriers and farmers passing to and from Dingle, Tralee, Mallow, Macroom, and Cork, and gradually a depot for a variety of merchandize required for the supply of the circumjacent country. He then proceeds to suggest, in general terms the erection of several of the principal houses of the proposed village and other buildings, and, among the rest, of one good model farm-house and offices—all of these to be constructed on the most simple plans. In this model farm-house he would place a person qualified to instruct the tenantry in the course to be pursued in reclaiming the lands, and in the best modes of husbandry for which they are adapted, which instruction is obviously best promoted by example.

For the labourers' works to be executed on the estate, he recommends that the resident population alone should be employed, and that they should be paid such rates of wages in money as may somewhat exceed the ordinary rates paid around the nearest towns.

He then proceeds to other details, both as to the most judicious methods to be adopted with the people, not only for the improvement of the agricultural condition of the estate, but for the growth of the moral habits of the tenantry; and also a calculation of the probable expense of carrying forward these objects, which, though not reduced to a thoroughly digested system, yet exhibit a masterly design, and may justly be called a finished sketch, founded

on, not only a general knowledge of human nature, but a thorough and intimate acquaintance with the Irish national character and modes of thinking, which, surprising as it might be even in one of ourselves, is still more extraordinary in an Englishman, who, however, has shown himself utterly untrammelled by what we are used to call the prejudices of his countrymen.

Some of his concluding observations are so just and candid, that we cannot avoid quoting his own words. "Looking at the present condition and past habits of the people, it would be vain to expect that they could be quickly converted into a skilful tenantry, or that they could duly appreciate the comforts and conveniences which it is desired that they should enjoy, if these advantages be prematurely conferred on them; time must be allowed for the growth of improved habits; and these will be most effectually excited by the steady encouragement which constant and productive employment affords, and will be best preserved by assuring to them a certain, but limited tenure of their farms, at such reasonable rents as will admit of a gradual accumulation of capital in their hands, if their means be duly husbanded."

On the recommendation of Mr. Spring Rice, as Chairman of the Committee on Irish Poor, the Government resolved to retain the possession of the estate, and generally adopted Mr. Weale's suggestions. The House of Commons, last session, on the motion of Lord Duncannon, authorized the Commissioners of Woods, &c. to supply £17,000 out of the produce of sales of quit-rents, &c. towards the costs of making the new public roads, upon condition that the counties of Cork and Kerry provided £70,000, the remainder of the sum required for that purpose. We have the satisfaction of adding that those counties have promptly availed themselves of the proposal, and at the assizes just concluded, passed presentments for the stipulated amount: and that the works are already in progress of erection, under the direction of Mr. Griffith.

We have now done. We can but hope that the same beneficent and wise spirit which has already influenced the operations of Government in the foretaste it has given to this most interesting district of its parental desire for its welfare, and which it must gratify every sincere lover of his country to see has been followed hitherto by such cheering and encouraging results, may stimulate it to carry into full effect the enlightened and clear-sighted views of the excellent individual it has had the discrimination to select for the important task of which he has so ably acquitted himself.

O'G.

MELANCHOLY CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.

During my first season at the Dublin University, I was invited to pass a short vacation with a relative of my mother. He lived in the south of Ireland, in an ancient family mansion-house, situated in the mountains, and at a considerable distance from the mail-coach road.

This gentleman was many years older than I. He had an only sister, a girl of sixteen, beautiful and accomplished; at the period of my visit she was still at school, but was to finally leave it, as my host informed me, at Midsummer.

Never was there a more perfect specimen of primitive Milesian life, than that which the domicile of my worthy relative exhibited. The house was enormously large—half ruinous—and all, within and without, wild, ricketty, and irregular. There was a troop of idle and slatternly servants of both sexes, distracting every department of the establishment; and a pack of useless dogs infesting the premises, and crossing you at every turn. Between the biped and quadruped nuisances an eternal war was carried on, and not an hour of the day elapsed, but a canine outcry announced that some of those unhappy curs were being ejected by the butler, or pelted by the cook.

So common-place was this everlasting uproar, that after a few days I almost ceased to notice it. I was dressing for dinner, when the noise of dogs quarrelling in the yard, brought me to the window; a terrier was being worried by a rough savage-looking fox-hound, whom I had before this noticed and avoided. At the moment, my host was crossing from the stable; he struck the hound with his whip, but regardless of the blow, he still continued his

attack upon the smaller dog. The old butler, in coming from the garden, observed the dogs fighting, and stopped to assist in separating them. Just then, the brute quitted the terrier, seized the master by the leg, and cut the servant in the hand. A groom rushed out on hearing the uproar, struck the prongs of a pitchfork through the dog's body, and killed him on the spot. This scene occurred in less time than I have taken in relating it.

I hastened from my dressing-room; my host had bared his leg, and was washing the wound, which was a jagged tear from the hound's tooth. Part of the skin was loose, and a sudden thought appeared to strike him—he desired an iron to be heated, took a sharp penknife from his pocket, coolly and effectually removed the ragged flesh, and, regardless of the agony it occasioned, with amazing determination cauterized the wound severely.

The old butler, however, contented himself with binding up his bleeding hand. He endeavoured to dissuade his master from undergoing, what he considered to be unnecessary pain. *'The dog was dead, sure, and that was quite sufficient to prevent any danger arising from the bite'*; and satisfied with this precaution, he remained indifferent to future consequences, and in perfect confidence that no ulterior injury could occur from the wound.

Three months passed away—my friend's sister was returning from school; and as the mountain road was in bad repair, and a bridge had been swept away by the floods, saddle-horses were sent to meet the carriage. The old butler, who had some private affairs to transact in the neighbouring town, volunteered to be the escort of his young mistress, and obtained permission.

That there was something unusual in the look and manner of her attendant, was quickly remarked by the lady. His address was wild and hurried, and some extraordinary feelings appeared to agitate him. To an enquiry if he was unwell, he returned a vague unmeaning answer; he trembled violently when assisting her on horseback, and it was evident that some strange and fearful sensations disturbed him.

They rode some miles rapidly, until they reached the rivulet where the bridge had been carried off by the flood. To cross the stream was no way difficult, as the water barely covered the horse's fetlock. The lady had ridden through the water, when a thrilling cry of indescribable agony from her attendant arrested her. Her servant was upon the opposite side endeavouring to rein in his unwilling horse, and in his face there was a horrible and convulsed look that terrified his alarmed mistress. To her anxious questions, he only replied by groans, which too truly betrayed his sufferings; at last, he pointed to the stream before him, and exclaimed, *'I cannot, dare not cross it! Oh God! I am lost! the dog—the dog!'*

What situation could be more frightful than that in which the lady found herself? In the centre of a desolate and unpeopled moor, far from assistance, and left alone with a person afflicted with decided madness. She might, it is true, have abandoned him, for the terrors of the poor wretch would have prevented him from crossing the rivulet; but with extraordinary courage she returned, seized the bridle fearlessly, and notwithstanding the outcries of the unhappy man, forced his horse through the water, and never left his side, until she fortunately overtook some tenants of her brother returning from a neighbouring fair.

I arrived on a visit the third evening after this occurrence, and the recollection of that poor old man's sufferings has ever since haunted my memory. All that medical skill and affectionate attention on his master's part could do to assuage his pain, and mitigate the agonies he occasionally underwent, was done. At length the moment that was devoutly prayed for came, he died on the sixth morning.

From this horrible fate nothing but his own determination preserved my relative: and by the timely use of a painful remedy, *excision and cautery of the wound*, he escaped this dreadful disease.—*Wild Sports of the West.*

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